

July 25, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
ATTN: Commission Secretary
Marlene H. Dortch
445 12th ST., S.W., CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Proceeding: Docket No. 03-167

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA), we are writing in support of SBC's application to provide long distance service in the State of Ohio.

SBC is the major local telecommunications carrier in the 16-county EODA region, providing service to 10 of our counties. SBC has been a very active partner in economic development efforts within the region. The company's capital investment, taxes paid, employees, donations and community involvement have contributed much to the welfare of our region and the State of Ohio.

For a company that invests so much back into the state, it seems only right that SBC should be allowed to compete with other telecommunications providers on a level playing field by also being permitted to offer long distance service. And from an economic development standpoint, the increased competition should lead to lower prices that will benefit business and residential customers alike.

We respectfully urge the FCC to proceed with approval of SBC's entry into the long distance market.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Myers
President

Dale H. Hileman
Executive Director